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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PRESS RELEASE

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**VIDOH BREASTFEEDING CONVENTION HOSTED BY NATIONALLY RENOWNED
WIC PROGRAM**

In observance of Breastfeeding Awareness Week. The Department of Health, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program will be hosting a Breastfeeding Conference that encompasses regional trainings for nurses and practitioners on St. Thomas and St. Croix to promote Breast Nutrition, and safe Maternal Health practices in the Virgin Islands. As the leaders in breastfeeding nationally; the Virgin Islands has seen a rise in mothers who have needs regarding this as an option for child nutrition.

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) calls for concerted global action to support women to combine breastfeeding and work. Whether a woman is working in the formal, non-formal or home setting, it is necessary that she is empowered in claiming her and her baby's right to breastfeed. "Each clinic will have a display about breast feeding. On various days throughout the week there will be raffles and grab bags with snacks for pregnant and breastfeeding moms," WIC Team stated.

The WBW 2015 theme on working women and breastfeeding revisits the 1993 WBW campaign on the Mother-Friendly Workplace Initiative. Much has been achieved in 22 years of global action supporting women in combining breastfeeding and work, particularly the adoption of the revised ILO Convention 183 on Maternity Protection with much stronger maternity entitlements, and more country actions on improving national laws and practices.

VIDOH invites media partners to RSVP by emailing or texting breastfeed to astia.lebron@doh.vi.gov or 340-514-2547. In order to participate in live recording of the Conference on:

**St. Croix, Divi Carina Bay August 11, 2015
St. Thomas, Frenchman's Reef August 12, 2015**

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